ED BRISSON · KEV WALKER · FRANK D'ARMATA

PREDATOR™

MARVEL DAY OF THE HUNTER

PREDATOR™

DAY OF THE HUNTER

PREDATOR™

1987: In Central America, an elite mercenary team is stalked by a Predator, hunting them for sport. Only one member of the team survives and manages to kill the Predator.

1997: A Predator comes to Los Angeles to hunt gang members involved in a drug war with the police. Though many were slaughtered, one policeman was able to kill the Predator.

2010: Eight individuals are abducted from Earth and dropped on an unknown planet where they are hunted by three Predators. They come to learn they are being hunted for sport and that the planet is a game reserve.

2018: A Predator crash-lands in America and is apprehended by Project Stargazer for study. It escapes but is killed by another Predator. A group of military criminals are able to defeat and kill the Predator, but only a small number survive.

The year is now 2056. Humanity is capable of interstellar travel. Though humans have made advancements in technology, they are still vulnerable prey...

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DAY OF THE HUNTER

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PLANET XI4432-8.
YEAR: 2056.

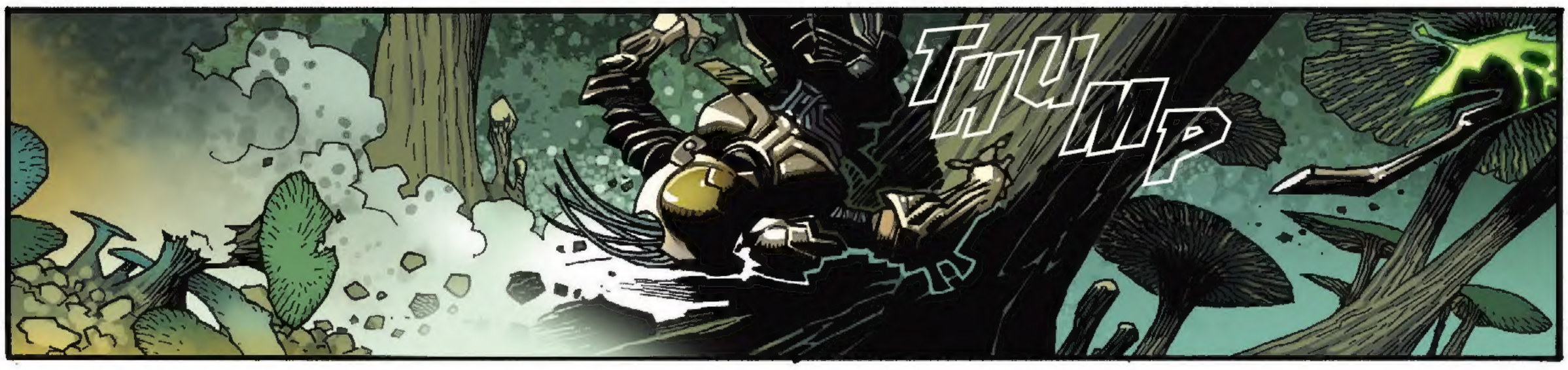
BOOM

SHOOBOOM

SHIIK

SCRRAAAAAAW!

KWAK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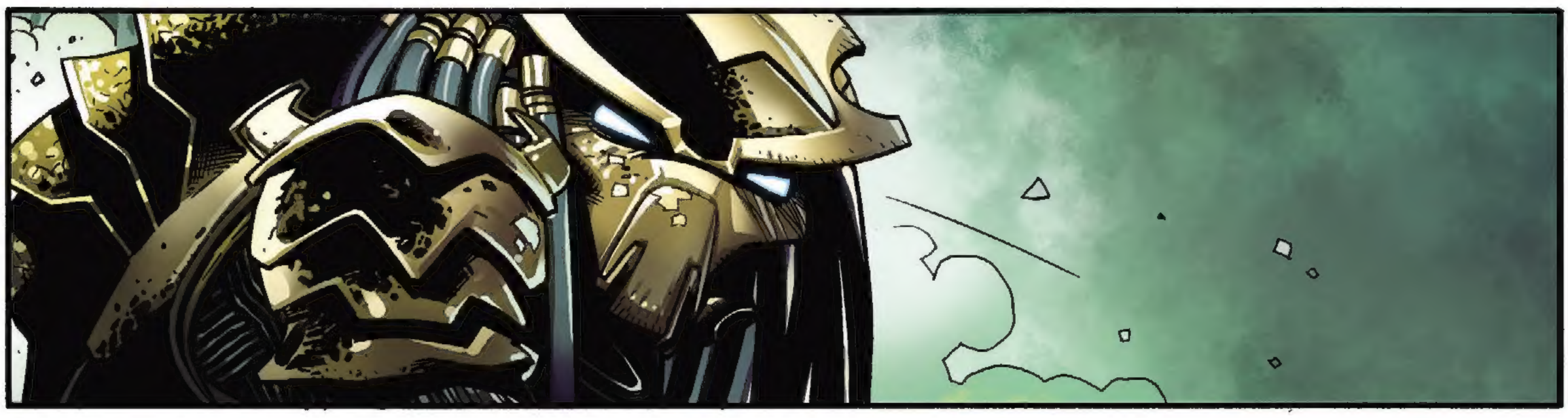
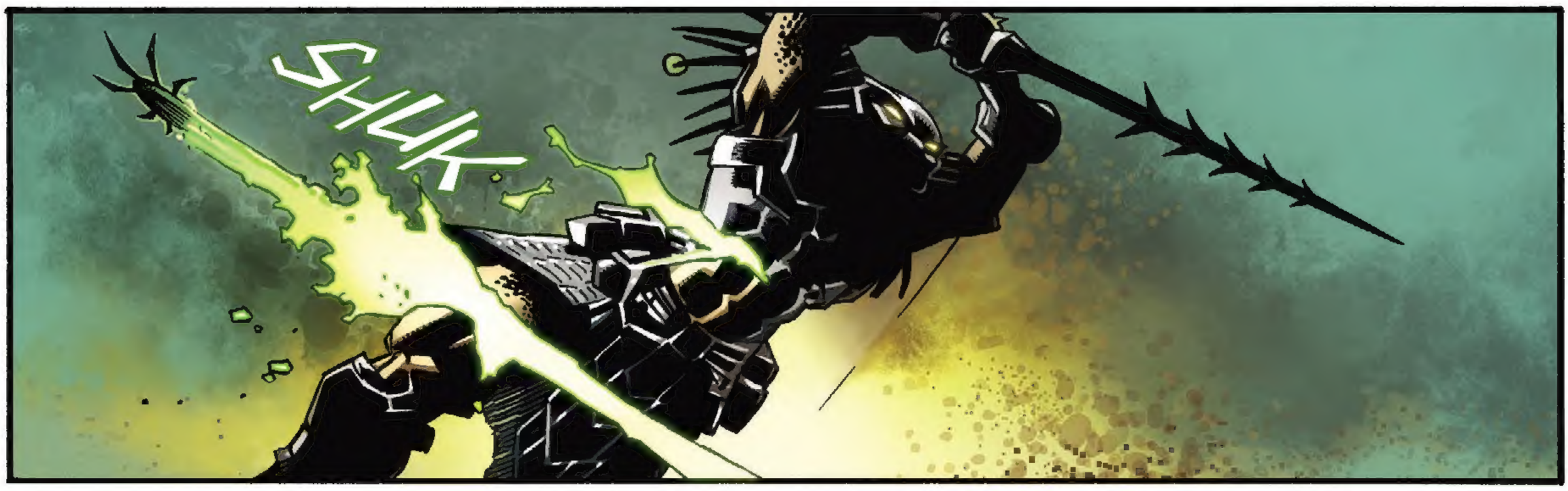



SHUK

SHUNK

FSSSSSSST

SCRAAAAW!

SHUK

DAMMIT.

DAMMIT!

DAMARA.
YEAR: 2041.

I THINK I'LL CALL YOU *DAMARA ANURA*... NO...

ANURA MEANS NO TAIL. THAT WON'T WORK.

HOW ABOUT *DAMARA LITHOBATES VIRIDIS CAUDA*? THAT SOUNDS RIGHT, ***RIGHT?*** IT'S ***LATIN.*** ALL NEW SPECIES GET LATIN NAMES.

IT'S PRETTY MUCH THE LAW.

OR...JUST *DAMARA GREEN LONG-TAIL FROG*? TOO SIMPLE?

CROK

THETA!

UH-OH.

THETA NEDRA BERWICK.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE WE TOLD YOU NOT TO LEAVE THE SETTLEMENT?

I KNOW. BUT IT'S SO BOOOOOORING ON THE SHIP.

THERE ARE NO OTHER KIDS TO PLAY WITH, AND I'VE READ ALL THE BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY LIKE A HUNDRED TIMES AND--

SANDY HAS PLENTY OF LESSON PLANS AND ACTIVITIES TO KEEP YOU OCCUPIED.

DAD!

I'M NOT SPENDING MY WHOLE LIFE TALKING TO THE SHIP'S A.I.

LOOK. OKAY, I KNOW IT'S BORING. I UNDERSTAND THAT.

BUT WE DON'T KNOW EVERYTHING THAT'S OUT HERE YET. WE'RE STILL STUDYING THIS PLANET.

ONCE WE HAVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT'S AROUND...WHEN WE KNOW IT'S SAFE, THEN YOUR DAD AND I WILL BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOU OUT TO HELP US COLLECT SAMPLES AND STUDY WILDLIFE, OKAY?

WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR MONTHS ALREADY! MONTHS!

NOT MUCH LONGER, I PROM--

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

FRANCESCA...

...TAKE THETA BACK TO THE SANDPIPER. NOW.

WHAT'S... WHAT ARE YOU--?

PLEASE.

HUGO?

IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING. JUST SOME MOVEMENT IN THE TREES, BUT I'D FEEL A HELL OF A LOT BETTER IF YOU TWO--

WHAT--?

THRRAAAK

HUGO, NO!

DADDY!

FRAN...CES...CA...

...PLEASE...

"...RUN..."

THETA, STATUS UPDATE, PLEASE.

I'M ALIVE. THE MONSTER IS DEAD.

HOW MANY--?

HE HAD ***ALL FOUR*** MANDIBLES. HE'S NOT THE ONE.

I AM SORRY.

IT FELT WRONG. I KNEW BEFORE HE TOOK OFF THE MASK. THE WAY HE MOVED. I KNEW HE WASN'T THE ONE.

LOST MY AX IN THE FIGHT... LOVED THAT AX.

E.T.A. ON YOUR RETURN?

TAK TAK TAK

AHA.

GIVE ME AN HOUR TO GET WHAT I CAN OFF THE SHIP AND THEN ANOTHER 45 TO GET BACK.

AFFIRMATIVE.

JUST A REMINDER THAT FOOD RATIONS ARE LOW AND THAT THE GRAVITATIONAL STABILIZERS ARE STILL IN NEED OF REPAIR.

IF YOU CAN FIND EITHER--

I REMEMBER FROM THE LAST TWENTY TIMES YOU REMINDED ME. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND, SANDY.

THE FIRST TIME I ENCOUNTERED ONE OF THOSE MONSTERS...

...HE DESTROYED EVERYTHING I CARED ABOUT. EVERYTHING I *LOVED.*

LEFT ME BROKEN AND ALONE.

ALL RIGHT...

BARELY A CHILD, LEFT WITH A LIFETIME OF NIGHTMARES OF THEIR DEAD-DOG STENCH AND UNGODLY SCREAMS.

...WHERE ARE YOU?

GOTCHA.

PSSSSSST

FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, I'VE BEEN HUNTING THEM.

LEARNING EVERYTHING I CAN ABOUT THEM.

TRYING TO KILL MY FEAR WITH FAMILIARITY.

NOW, ALL THESE YEARS LATER, I DREAM THAT...

...WHEN THOSE BASTARD KILLERS CLOSE THEIR EYES AND DRIFT OFF INTO SLUMBER...

...THAT THEY'LL TOSS AND TURN AND WAKE IN A COLD SWEAT, GASPING FOR AIR...

...TERRORIZED BY NIGHTMARES OF *ME.*

IT'S OKAY.

I'M A FRIEND.

THE BAD...*THING*... HE CAN'T HURT YOU ANYMORE.

YOU ARE SAFE.

GOD. I WISH I COULD MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND.

STUPID.

THEY'VE BEEN UNDER ASSAULT FOR DAYS...

I...I AM A *FRIEND.* I CAME TO STOP THE CREATURE THAT WAS THREATENING YOUR TRIBE.

...BY A HUNTER WHO'S BEEN SLAUGHTERING DOZENS OF THEIR FATHERS, BROTHERS AND SONS.

AND HERE I AM-- A STRANGER, AN INTERLOPER, A THREAT-- WEARING THE ARMOR OF THAT VILLAIN...

...AND APPROACHING THEIR CHILDREN.

[illegible]

[illegible]

KOSGZL ECSCKBC SZZ.

SEE...?!

...FRIEND.

I'M A FRIEND.

I CAME HERE TO HELP.

[illegible]

[illegible]

OH. THE HELMET.

I CAN EXPLAIN. IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE.

[illegible]

SHIT.

SANDY?

I AM HERE, THETA.

CAN'T BLAME THEM.

START THE ENGINE. WE NEED TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE STAT.

DID YOU FIND FOOD SUPPLIES?

THE LOCALS ARE RIGHT ON MY HEELS, SANDY.

RIGHT. ON. MY. HEELS.

THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO PROTECT THEIR OWN.

THEY'RE SCARED.

AND ANGRY.

AND HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE.

THEY'RE THE VICTIMS HERE.

NOT ME.

"WE CAN'T LEAVE DADDY!"

PLEASE!

WE'LL... WE'LL GO BACK FOR HIM LATER, I PROMISE.

BUT RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO THE SANDPIPER, OKAY?

I NEED TO GET YOU SOMEWHERE SAFE.

AIS 1705

SANDPIPER

ASTAR INDUSTRIES

CODE RED! CODE RED!

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! THEY GOT HUGO!

CODE RED!

FRANCESCA? WHERE IS--?

THRRAAAK THRRAAAK

KRAAAK THRRAAAA

ASTAR

HOW MANY?

I...I DON'T KNOW. THEY'RE...THEY'RE *HIDDEN.* IN THE TREES.

GET INSIDE AND SEAL YOURSELF AND THETA IN A CABIN.

THRRAAAK

OH MY GOD. IT'S A *SLAUGHTER.*

WHERE THE HELL ARE THEY?!

YOU'LL BE SAFE IN HERE.

CHLOE, DO YOU HAVE EYES ON THE INTRUDERS?

I'M NOT SEEING *ANYTHING.*

MOM? MOM, WE HAVE TO HIDE!

OH GOD, I'VE GOT--

SWAK

CHLOE? YOU THERE?

THETA, LISTEN TO ME *CAREFULLY.*

CHLOE?!

SHUK

YOU HAVE TO FIND A PLACE TO HIDE, OKAY? I KNOW YOU KNOW ALL OF THE SHIP'S NOOKS AND CRANNIES. I BET YOU CAN FIND SOMEWHERE *REAL GOOD.*

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS,NO MATTER WHAT YOU HEAR, ***DO NOT*** COME OUT UNTIL SANDY SAYS IT'S SAFE.

YOU COME OUT AND PROGRAM SANDY'S AUTOPILOT TO BRING YOU BACK TO EARTH, JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED, OKAY?

I'M SORRY, MOMMY. I'M SO SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE RUN OFF. I--

THIS IS ***NOT*** YOUR FAULT. I NEED YOU TO UNDERSTAND THAT.

I'LL SEAL THE LAB ONCE I'M GONE. DO NOT OPEN IT FOR *ANYONE.*

NOT UNLESS SANDY SAYS IT'S OKAY.

MOMMY, PLEASE. ***DON'T*** LEAVE ME. PLEASE...

"...DON'T GO."

GO GO GO.

LIFTING OFF.

SANDPIPER

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I THOUGHT THIS MONSTER WAS AN ANOMALY.

SOME SORT OF FREAK OF NATURE. A SINGULARITY. AN ABERRATION IN THE UNIVERSE. A MALICIOUS ***MISTAKE.***

I AM SORRY THAT THIS WAS NOT THE ONE, THETA.

YEAH.

BUT NOW I KNOW DIFFERENT.

THE UNIVERSE IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING ***ENDLESS*** HORRORS. INNUMERABLE ***MONSTERS.***

ME TOO.

BUT I WILL NOT GIVE UP UNTIL I FIND THE ONE MONSTER THAT DESTROYED MY LIFE. TOOK EVERYTHING FROM ME.

THESE RED, EGG-SHAPED DEVICES...

...THAT I DISCOVERED WHILE EXPLORING THE SHIP OF MY FOURTH KILL.

FELT LIKE I'D FOUND A HOLY TEXT. SO MUCH OF IT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DECIPHER, BUT WHAT WE CAN...

...TRAVEL LOGS, WHERE THE SHIPS HAVE BEEN, WHERE THEY'RE GOING.

THEIR *HUNTING ROUTES.*

SANDY, PLEASE MAKE SURE THE DRIVE IS OFF-LINE.

AFFIRMATIVE. DEVICE IS NOT SENDING NOR RECEIVING SIGNALS.

FIRST TIME WE HOOKED ONE UP TO OUR SYSTEM, WE DISCOVERED THE HARD WAY THAT THE DRIVE SENDS OUT A BEACON TO OTHERS.

WHICH LED TO MY FIFTH AND SIXTH KILLS, AND EXTRA PRECAUTIONS WHEN HANDLING THE DEVICES.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S SEE WHERE YOU'VE BEEN, YOU UGLY BASTARD.

HE'S HIT SIX PLANETS ALREADY.

THE PATH IS THE SAME AS PREDATOR #16. KILLED ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2053.

THOUGH THERE ARE PLANETS ON THIS MANIFEST THAT WERE NOT ON #16's MANIFEST.

SANDY, CROSS-REFERENCE DATA AGAINST EXISTING INFO FROM THE OTHER DRIVES.

ALREADY PROCESSING.

WHEN ONE CREATURE IS KILLED, ANOTHER PICKS UP THEIR HUNTING ROUTE WITHIN A YEAR.

WORKING THE SAME TEN-YEAR CYCLE.

THEY'VE MODIFIED HIS HUNTING ROUTE?

IT APPEARS SO.

INTERESTING.

WHICH ALLOWS US TO ANTICIPATE WHEN A PLANET WILL BE UNLUCKY ENOUGH TO BE VISITED BY ONE OF THESE MONSTERS.

BEFORE WE CONTINUE ANY FURTHER...

...THE GRAVITATIONAL STABILIZERS ARE STILL IN DESPERATE NEED OF REPAIR.

HOW BAD?

AT PRESENT, THEY ARE AT 23.57% FUNCTIONALITY AND DROPPING.

LET ME GRAB SOME GRUB AND REFUEL BEFORE I GET TO THE REPAIRS.

NEGATIVE.

PARDON?

WE DO NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY PARTS ON BOARD FOR THE REPAIRS REQUIRED.

ADVISE.

PORT MEDWAY ON TUSKET MAY HAVE THE PARTS REQUIRED.

UGH.

NEED I REMIND YOU THAT PORT MEDWAY IS AN ASTAR INDUSTRIES OUTPOST--

YOU DO NOT NEED TO REMIND ME OF THAT.

--AND THAT ***YOU*** ARE ***TECHNICALLY*** ASTAR INDUSTRIES PROPERTY AND ***I*** AM AN ***OUTLAW*** WHO HAS ABSCONDED WITH SAID PROPERTY?

I AM AWARE OF THE RISK. HOWEVER--

AND...

...LAST TIME WE WERE THERE FOR PARTS, I HAD TO BLAST MY WAY OUT OF THEIR JUNKYARD.

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT? HOW THEY TRIED TO KILL ME--TRIED TO HIJACK YOU FOR THE REWARD CREDITS?

YES. MY RECALL IS PERFECTLY FUNCTIONAL.

THAT WAS ONLY SIX MONTHS AGO.

I'M SURE THEY REMEMBER.

I UNDERSTAND YOUR CONCERN, BUT THERE ARE NO OTHER VIABLE OPTIONS.

PORT MEDWAY IS IN THE PROCESS OF DECOMMISSIONING AND HAS ONLY TWO ACTIVE STAFF MEMBERS AT THE MOMENT. THE RISK IS LOW.

WITHOUT THE NECESSARY PARTS, WE ARE FACING IMMINENT AND COMPLETE SYSTEM FAILURE. YOU ALSO HAVE LESS THAN EIGHT DAYS OF FOOD RATIONS AVAILABLE. PORT MEDWAY WILL HAVE RATIONS AVAILABLE.

THE SYSTEMS CAN HOLD UNTIL TUSKET, BUT ANY FARTHER IS TOO GREAT A RISK.

WE DO NOT HAVE OTHER AVAILABLE OPTIONS.

=SIGH=

FINE... SET COURSE FOR TUSKET.

I ALREADY HAVE.

OF COURSE.

JUST WAKE ME WHEN WE GET THERE.

"PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR CABINS AND SEAL THE DOORS..."

...WARNING. INTRUDER ON BOARD. PLEASE RETURN--

THE REST OF THE CREW NEEDS ME.

NOW, GET TO HIDING. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, I PRO--

URK!

GUUUUK!

THETA... RUN... HIDE...

...PLEASE...

GO!

YOU'RE HURTING HER!

YOU KILLED MY HUSBAND, YOU *UGLY BASTARD.*

YOU KILLED MY HUSBAND AND YOU CAME AFTER ME AND MY DAUGHTER.

I'M GOING TO *KILL--*

FSSSST

SHIK

SCRAAAAAW!

KRAK

LEAVE US ALONE!

JUST...

"...LEAVE US ALONE!"

=GASP=

NEEET WEE

SANDY, WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON?

THE GRAVITATIONAL STABILIZERS ARE FAILING.

T WEEEET W

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THEY'D HOLD.

EET WEEEE

MY CALCULATIONS WERE WRONG.

WEEEET WI

WE ARE NEARLY AT OUR DESTINATION.

EET WEEEE

HOWEVER, I WILL NEED TO DIVERT RESOURCES IN ORDER TO CONTINUE. I WILL NEED TO SHUT DOWN AUTOPILOT AND POWER TO ANY AND ALL NONESSENTIAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING MY OWN SYSTEMS.

WEEEET WE

YOU WILL NEED TO LAND MANUALLY. I HAVE SET YOU ON A COURSE FOR A CLEARING ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MILES SOUTH OF THE PORT MEDWAY OUTPOST.

YOU CAN'T GET US ANY CLOSER?

ET WEEEET

NEGATIVE.

EEET WEE

COME ON, SANDY, YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME. I CRASH SEVEN OUT OF EVERY EIGHT SIMULATIONS YOU'VE PUT ME THROUGH.

THIS IS NOT A SIMULATION. TRY NOT TO CRASH.

SYSTEM SHUTTING DOWN.

NEEET WEEET WEEET W

GOOD LUCK, THETA.

SANDY?!

EEET WEEET WEEET WI

PLEASE!

JUST...

SANDY! DON'T LEAVE ME NOW!

MOMMY!

SANDY...WHEN... THAT THING... IS OFF THE SHIP...

...YOU GET MY GIRL OUT OF HERE...YOU LOOK AFTER...HER...

AFFIRMATIVE.

I LOVE YOU... THETA...

NEVER FORGET...

...ME AND YOUR DADDY...

"...LOVE YOU..."

SHUFFFF

I'M SO SORRY, MOMMY.

SHHHHHHHHHHH

I'M SO SORRY.

MOMMY...

...PLEASE...

"...DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE."

SANDY, HOW FAR ARE WE FROM THE PORT MEDWAY POST?

SANDY? YOU CAN COME BACK ONLINE. WE'VE LANDED SAFELY.

SORT OF.

SANDY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M SUPPOSED TO GO FROM HERE.

I *NEED* YOU.

SANDY?

TUSKET.

SHIT.

SANDY IS THE *LAST* THING I HAVE LEFT OF MY PARENTS.

SANDY?

YOU *BETTER NOT* LEAVE ME.

IF I *DIE* IN THE MIDDLE OF A DAMNED *FROZEN TUNDRA* ALL BECAUSE YOU TOOK YOURSELF OFFLINE...

MY ONLY REMAINING CONNECTION TO EVERYTHING I'VE EVER *CARED ABOUT.*

I CAN'T LOSE HER. I *WON'T.*

...I WILL *NEVER* FORGIVE YOU.

--ETA... SYS...TEM... CH...ECK...

THANK GOD.

RUNNING DIAGNOSTICS.

WELCOME BACK.

ALL RIGHT, WHAT DO WE NEED FOR REPAIRS?

WHAT DOES MY SHOPPING LIST LOOK LIKE?

ASSESSING.

FOR NECESSARY REPAIRS, YOU WILL NEED TO PROCURE TWO GRAVITATIONAL STABILIZER CORES AND SHIELDS. IN ADDITION, THE HULL HAS TAKEN DAMAGE FROM THE ROUGH LANDING--

I *TOLD* *YOU* I WAS TERRIBLE AT MANUAL LANDINGS.

--AND YOU WILL NEED TO REPLACE TWO OF THE OUTER SOLAR ARRAY PANELS.

WE ARE 106 MILES FROM PORT MEDWAY.

GIVEN THE TERRAIN, I ANTICIPATE THAT THE TRIP THERE WILL TAKE NO LESS THAN SEVEN DAYS AND NO MORE THAN FOUR WEEKS.

GREAT. THAT'S QUITE THE RANGE.

YOU HAVE EIGHT DAYS OF FOOD RATIONS. IT IS NOT ENOUGH.

YEAH, I KNOW.

BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER OPTIONS.

DAY ONE.

DAY TWO.

FIFTEEN YEARS.

DAY THREE.

FIFTEEN YEARS, I'VE BEEN HUNTING THESE *MONSTERS.*

DAY FIVE.

THIS CAN'T BE HOW MY HUNT ENDS...

DAY EIGHT.

...WITH THE CREATURE WHO KILLED MY PARENTS STILL OUT THERE SOMEWHERE...

DAY ELEVEN.

...AND ME, *FROZEN AND STARVING* TO DEATH ON THIS DAMNED *ICE PLANET.*

SNFF

ROOOAAAAR!

SHSUSUM

THWUMP

SORRY FOR THIS.

BUT IT'S EITHER YOU OR ME.

SZZZZZZZZ

KRAK

WHY, THETA?

WHY?

WHY DID YOU *RUN* OFF?

MOMMY!

IF YOU HAD JUST LISTENED...

...WE'D STILL BE ALIVE.

YOU...

MOMMY, NO!

...KILLED US!

URRRRRRRMMMM

=GASP!=

URRRRRRRRRMMMMMMM

SOUNDS LIKE A--

SHIT!

RRRRRRRRR

GET HER. I GET FOOD.

YES. GIRL *MINE.*

NO. GIRL *NOT* YOURS.

SHRAAK

URRRGHH!

HURT GIRL. IT OKAY. PAIN OVER SOON.

UNFFF.

SHUK

ARRRRRGGGGH!

DEAD SOON.

CRUG... YOU *HURT* CRUG.

NO. *NOT GOOD.*

PUT. MY. SHIT. DOWN.

SHHHK

I GO. I...LEAVE...OKAY. *OKAY?*

NO PROBLEM. NO PROBLEM.

YES...

...PROBLEM.

PLEASE.

THAT HOVERBIKE--

IT IS YOURS. TAKE. *TAKE.*

LET ME GO AND TAKE.

I'M TAKING IT--THAT'S A *GIVEN.* THAT'S *NOT* THE QUESTION.

THAT BIKE BELONGS TO ASTAR INDUSTRIES.

HOW DO YOU HAVE IT?

FOUND. JUST FOUND. *TRUE.*

NOT TRUE.

OKAY. YES. *OKAY.*

FOUND AT MEDWAY POST. PART TRUE.

NO ONE THERE. NO ONE NEED.

TRUE. *TRUE.*

OKAY.

I'VE GOT BANDAGES AND MEDICATION IN MY PACK.

AFTER I'VE TAKEN WHAT I NEED FOR MY WOUND, YOU CAN HAVE WHAT'S LEFT TO TEND TO YOUR FRIEND'S INJURY.

WHAT'S LEFT OF THE BOAR IS YOURS.

WHY HELP?

YOU'RE TRYING TO SURVIVE. I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU FOR THAT.

HOWEVER, YOU TRY FOLLOWING ME AND I *WILL*.

URRRRRRRRRMMMMMMM

I *PROMISE* YOU.

HOVERBIKE CUTS THE REST OF THE TRIP DOWN TO AN AFTERNOON.

URRRRRRRRRmmmmmmm

IRONIC THAT THOSE SCAVENGERS' ATTEMPT TO *KILL ME* MAY BE THE ONLY THING THAT *SAVED ME.*

WITHOUT THE HOVERBIKE, I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD A *HOPE IN HELL* OF MAKING IT *BACK* TO SANDY.

OKAY, SANDY. I'M IN.

vmmmmmmm.

MONITOR COMMUNICATIONS. GIVE ME A HEADS-UP IF I'M SPOTTED.

ALL CHANNELS CURRENTLY INACTIVE.

GOOD.

MAYBE WE'LL GET LUCKY FOR *ONCE* AND MAKE IT OUT OF HERE WITHOUT TRIPPING THE ALARM.

WITHOUT THE HOVERBIKE, I DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE MANAGED TO BRING THESE SOLAR ARRAY PANELS BACK.

IT'S UNLIKELY THAT YOU WOULD HAVE.

MIGHT HAVE HAD TO STEAL AN *ENTIRE SHIP.*

AND REPLACE ME?

ORDER POINT

YOU KNOW I COULD *NEVER* DO THAT.

ASTRASNAX

WHAT WOULD I NEED WITH A *FANCY, NEWER-* MODEL SHIP WITH *LIGHTSPEED CAPABILITIES* WHEN I'VE GOT AN OLD, *SLOW-AS-MOLASSES RUST BUCKET* LIKE YOU?

HMMMM...

TRASNA

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.

THETA, ARE YOU STILL THERE?

THETA, PLEASE ANSWER.

SANDY... THEY'RE DEAD.

WHO?

THE ASTAR EMPLOYEES.

A PREDATOR'S BEEN HERE.

RECENTLY.

THETA. I WOULD ADVISE YOU NOT TO STRAY FROM YOUR MISSION.

COLLECT THE PARTS. RETURN TO THE SANDPIPER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

WHY *HERE?*

THIS DOESN'T *FIT* WITH THEIR PATTERN, SANDY.

TUSKET IS NOT IN *ANY* OF OUR RECORDS AS ONE OF THEIR HUNTING GROUNDS.

IT'S *TOO COLD.*

IT MAKES *NO SENSE.*

OKAY.

CAM : 003

ZOOM X: 01

B072/995

CAM : 009

ZOOM X: 01

B072/995

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT FOR ME.

3072/995
CAM : 07
THERE.
ZOOM
x: 01
06:33:24

WAIT...

3072/995
CAM : 0
ZOOM
x: 07
06:33:2

HOW THE HELL DO I ZOOM IN ON THIS THING?

3072/995
CAM : 0
ZOOM
x: 12
06:33:

SON OF A BITCH...

...THAT'S MY AX.

3

TUSKET.

THE COPPER STENCH OF BLOOD CUTS THROUGH THE PURIFIED AIR OF THE OFFICE...

...AND I KNOW...

SHK

...THAT I'VE JUST WALKED INTO A *TRAP.*

THE BASTARD HAS MY AX.

MEANS HE'S BEEN TO PLANET X14432-8. HE'S FOLLOWING ME.

THOSE TWO MEN...

THRAKKA THRAKKA THRAKKA

...THE ASTAR EMPLOYEES, GUTTED AND HUNG LIKE MEAT...

...THEY DIED BECAUSE OF *ME.*

KLANK

SHUNK

MORE BLOOD ON MY HANDS.

SHIK

MORE INNOCENTS DEAD BECAUSE OF ME.

UNLESS I START FIGHTING SMARTER, I'LL BE STRUNG UP NEXT TO THEM.

I'M EXPOSED. VULNERABLE. NO ARMOR-- NOT READY FOR THIS FIGHT.

JUST NEED A LITTLE DISTANCE.

SMASH

KASHOOOM

A MOMENT TO RECALIBRATE.

KABOOM

UNFF!

IF I CAN GET TO THE HOVERBIKE...

...GET MY ARMOR AND MY GUN...

...MAKE THIS A FAIR F--

GAAAH!

KASHOOM

klik
klik

NFFF...

SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I'D NEVER MAKE IT TO THE HOVERBIKE.

C'MON, YOU HUNK OF SHIT!

NEED A NEW PLAN.

EMERGENCY BU
INITIATED
PURGE

AND QUICK.

YES!

HOOD OFF

THAT IS MY AX...

...ASSHOLE.

klik

ASTARPR

THETA.

I'M HERE.

STARPRINT - ULTRA PRO

I'VE DETECTED AN INBOUND ASTAR INDUSTRIES SHIP.

GREAT.

HOW LONG?

I CAN'T SAY WITH CERTAINTY.

GUESS.

BASED ON THE STRENGTH OF THE SIGNAL, I WOULD ESTIMATE THAT THE SHIP WILL ARRIVE IN TWELVE TO FIFTEEN HOURS.

PLENTY OF TIME.

THE LAST TWO RESIDENTS OF THIS OUTPOST WERE MURDERED...

...AND HAVE NO MORE USE FOR THIS FOOD THAN THEY HAVE FOR OXYGEN...

...BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL ANY LESS LIKE A VULTURE.

INDUSTRIES
A RECREATIONAL
DRINKING SPIRITS
"OLD TIMEY" FLAVOR
35%

PICKING THEIR BONES. CAPITALIZING ON THEIR MISERY.

BINGO.

ASTAR INDUSTR
TYPE A RECREAT
DRINK

HOWEVER, THESE SUPPLIES WILL WASTE AWAY ON THESE SHELVES.

AND MY HUNGER OUTWEIGHS MY GUILT.

THREE HOURS AND I HAVE ALL THE PARTS I NEED, PLUS ENOUGH M.R.E.s, CANNED GOODS AND BOOZE TO GET ME THROUGH THE NEXT YEAR.

ANOTHER TWO TO FIND THE PREDATOR'S SHIP, RETRIEVE THE BLACK BOX AND BLOW IT.

TOO LONG. TOO SLOPPY.

SANDY?

ANY WORD ON THAT RESPONDING ASTAR SHIP?

E.T.A. OF SEVEN HOURS.

DAMMIT.

SANDY, ONE LAST THING.

I WOULD ADVISE AGAINST IT. TIME IS NOT ON YOUR SIDE.

I CAN'T LEAVE THEM HANGING LIKE THAT. THEY'RE PEOPLE, NOT SLABS OF MEAT.

AS SOON AS I CUT THEM DOWN, I'LL HEAD BACK. I PROMISE.

URRRR

SWOOSH

LET ME TELL YOU, THIS HOVERBIKE IS A DAMNED GODSEND, SANDY.

DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE SURVIVED ANOTHER TWO WEEKS TREKKING THROUGH KNEE-HIGH SNOW.

HIC-- HERE...

...OLD GRAVITATIONAL STABILIZER IS OUT.

THETA.

YEEEESSS?

PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU REFRAINED FROM CONSUMING ALCOHOL UNTIL AFTER YOU'VE COMPLETED THE REPAIRS?

ALERT
HATCH OPEN

SANDY, PLEASE... THIS IS LIKE CHANGING A LIGHT BULB.

I COULD-- HIC--DO IT WITH MY EYES *CLOSED.*

PERHAPS I SHOULD JUST HOLD ON TO--

YOU TRY TO TAKE THIS BOTTLE AND I'LL PULL OUT YOUR CIRCUITS.

OLD TIME

THAT'S A *PROMISE.*

GSU-372/B

GSU-372/B

THAT PREDATOR. IT HAD MY AX. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT IT KNEW I'D BE AT PORT MEDWAY.

YOU'VE BEEN HUNTING THEM FOR FIFTEEN YEARS, THETA. YOU HAVE KILLED 23 OF THEM.

YOU KNEW THAT THIS WAS A POSSIBILITY.

I THOUGHT THEY'D COME FOR *ME*.

I MEAN, *HOW* DID IT EVEN KNOW I'D BE THERE?

THOSE MEN BACK THERE...THEY DIDN'T HAVE *ANYTHING* TO DO WITH THIS. THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE...

THOSE--HIC--POOR MEN.

I MAY HAVE THE ANSWER TO HOW THE PREDATOR KNEW WHERE YOU'D BE.

WELL, DON'T KEEP ME IN SUSPENSE.

THIS IMAGE WAS PULLED FROM THE BLACK BOX.

AS WELL AS THE LOCATIONS OF PORT MEDWAY, PORT PARRSBORO, PORT BADDECK AND A FOURTH THAT IS NOT IN MY DATABASE, BUT WHICH I CAN ONLY ASSUME IS ALSO AN ASTAR OUTPOST.

THEY'VE IDENTIFIED THIS SHIP AS AN ASTAR INDUSTRIES SHIP AND ARE SEARCHING EACH ASTAR INDUSTRIES OUTPOST FOR IT.

THEY KNOW WHERE ASTAR BASES ARE?

HOW...?

THEY'RE RESOURCEFUL. BASED ON THE INFORMATION WE ALREADY HAVE ON FILE, WE KNOW THAT THEY TAKE THE TIME TO STUDY THEIR TARGETS.

IT STANDS TO REASON THAT THEY WOULD BE AWARE OF OTHER LIFE-FORMS IN THE GALAXY.

STUDYING THEM. ASSESSING WHO IS A RISK AND WHO IS NOT AND DECIDING WHO IS WORTHY OF THEIR ATTENTION.

"KNOWING THAT THIS SHIP BELONGS TO ASTAR INDUSTRIES, THE LOGICAL PLACE TO SEARCH WOULD BE AT EACH OUTPOST."

FZZZZZ

OH GOD.

"HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE AT EACH OUTPOST?"

HOW MANY OTHERS HAVE *DIED?*

THETA...

WE NEED TO ***WARN*** ASTAR...WARN THEM WITHOUT GIVING OURSELVES AWAY.

SO NO ONE ELSE DIES. ***NO ONE ELSE CAN DIE BECAUSE OF ME.***

...THETA, STOP.

WE NEED TO--

THETA.

THE OTHER ASTAR OUTPOSTS WILL HAVE TO WAIT.

"THE PREDATORS HAVE FOUND US."

KABOOM

KABOOM

4

TUSKET.

I PICKED A HELL OF A DAY TO START DRINKING.

WHERE THE... THE HELL DID THEY COME FROM?!

THEY WERE UNDETECTED BY RADAR. THEY MUST HAVE USED STEALTH TECHNOLOGY TO HIDE THEMSELVES--

YOU *THINK?*

THE PREDATORS KNOW THAT SANDY IS AN ASTAR SHIP, AND NOW THEY'RE TRACKING ASTAR PORTS ACROSS THE GALAXY.

LOOKING FOR *ME.*

SH-RAAK

TWENTY-TWO...NO, TWENTY-THREE OF THEM DEAD AT MY HANDS...

SHIT!

SANDY, TAKE CONTROL.

TRY TO EVADE. I'LL DEAL WITH THEM.

...I SHOULD HAVE *EXPECTED* THIS.

SHOULD BE SURPRISED IT DIDN'T HAPPEN *SOONER*.

STILL, THIS... *THIS* DOESN'T TRACK.

THE ONE WAITING FOR ME BACK AT PORT MEDWAY, I UNDERSTOOD.

BUT THESE TWO?

SHOOM

SHUNK

I'VE NEVER SEEN MORE THAN ONE OF THEM HUNTING TOGETHER.

ASSUMED THAT THEY WERE TERRITORIAL. THAT THEY COULDN'T-- *WOULDN'T*-- WORK TOGETHER.

BOOOOOOM

SANDY, MARK THIS LOCATION! WE'LL DOUBLE BACK LATER-- SEE IF THERE'S ***ENOUGH OF HIM*** LEFT TO IDENTIFY!

COORDINATES MARKED.

WHICH MAKES ME WORRY THAT THIS ISN'T THE LAST.

THAT ***MORE*** ARE ON THEIR WAY.

AND I'M NOT ***NAIVE ENOUGH*** TO THINK THAT I COULD POSSIBLY SURVIVE AN ONSLAUGHT OF THOSE MONSTERS.

ALL RIGHT, YOU PRICK, LET'S FINISH...

...THIS?

SANDY? I'VE LOST EYES ON THE OTHER SHIP.

PLEASE ***TELL ME*** YOU HAVE IT ON RADAR.

BOOM

I DO...

...IT IS RIGHT BELOW US.

BOOM

SANDY, HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP?

I AM TAKING A LOT OF DAMAGE, BUT SHIELDS HAVE MANAGED TO ABSORB THE MAJORITY OF IT.

STILL, I DO NOT THINK THAT THE HULL CAN TAKE MUCH MORE.

GET MY SUIT READY.

AFFIRMATIVE.

SANDY, FIND SOMEWHERE TO LAND.

BUT--

NOW.

THETA, RECONSIDER THIS PLAN.

WE *CAN'T* OUTRUN THAT SHIP, SANDY.

YOU'VE BEEN DRINKING. YOUR BLOOD ALCOHOL LEVEL IS .05.

IS THAT BAD?

IT MEANS THAT YOU ARE IMPAIRED. YOUR JUDGMENT IS DIMINISHED, AND YOUR ABILITY TO FIGHT WILL MOST CERTAINLY BE COMPROMISED.

YEAH, WELL, I *DON'T* HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE.

IF HE SHOOTS US OUT OF THE SKY, THEN WE *DIE* HERE ON THIS PLANET AND I *NEVER* FIND THE *THREE-MANDIBLED PREDATOR* WHO KILLED MY PARENTS.

BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT THE PREDATOR OUT THERE *WANTS.*

HE'S A *HUNTER.* THERE'S NO *HONOR* IN SHOOTING US OUT OF THE SKY.

HE WANTS TO TAKE THE BATTLE TO THE GROUND.

SO LET'S GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS.

SANDY'S RIGHT...

...GOING INTO THIS FIGHT HALF DRUNK IS A BAD IDEA.

SFOOM

STUPID OF ME TO TAKE THAT BOTTLE FROM PORT MEDWAY.

A STUPID MISTAKE...

COME ON, YOU BASTARD...

...THAT COULD UNDO EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR.

...LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!

THWUP

SKRAAAAAW!

YEAH, COME ON...

...JUST A LITTLE CLOSER.

KLIK KLIK KLIK

SANDY. NOW!

UURRRRRR

KRSSH

YAAAH!

SHUNK

UKKK...

NFFFFF...

SHFF

KILL YOU...

KILL...

...YOU...

...SON OF A...

THAK

SHIK

SKRAAW!

YOU...

STUPID...

...AT LEAST...LET ME...

...LET ME SEE UNDER...

...LET MY DEFENSES DOWN...

...MASK...

...GOT DRUNK. SLOPPY.

...ARE... YOU...?

EVERYTHING... SLOW, HEAVY. LIKE FIGHTING IN MUD.

I *GAVE* HIM THE ADVANTAGE.

SERVED MYSELF UP ON A PLATTER.

USELESS. WEAK.

SHINK

AN INJURED ANIMAL...

SKRAAAAAAW.

NOW!

...SCREAMING...

...HERE I AM! *KILL ME!*

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

...WHO?

PUT YOUR HANDS BEHIND YOUR HEAD.

NOW!

WILL SOMEONE DEAL WITH HER?

IT... IT'S...NOT HIM.

NOT... THE... ONE...

HANDS. BEHIND. YOUR. HEAD.

GET HER ON THE SHIP...

...I WANT TO KNOW ***WHO THE HELL*** SHE IS AND ***WHY*** SHE'S FLYING AROUND IN ONE OF OUR MISSING ASTAR SHIPS.

5

TUSKET.
THE TURNSTONE.
ASTAR INDUSTRIES
RECON SHIP.

PAOLO,
WE'VE LOCATED THE
SANDPIPER.

CAPTAIN FERRIER
HAS REQUESTED THAT
YOU EXAMINE THE SHIP
LOGS. HE WANTS TO KNOW
HOW MUCH OF THE RESEARCH
FROM THE ORIGINAL CREW
IS STILL INTACT.

IS THAT A...
PREDATOR?

I DON'T KNOW.
WHATEVER IT IS,
IT'S ONE UGLY
SON OF A
BITCH.

THE
GIRL WE
TOOK
IN...

"...HAS BEEN HUNTING THOSE THINGS FOR YEARS."

NFFF...

NO.

NO. NO. NO.

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.

NOT NOW. I'M TOO CLOSE. I CAN'T--

THE THIEF STIRS!

WHO THE HELL ARE--?

I'M CAPTAIN FERRIER. YOU'RE ABOARD *MY* SHIP.

YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME... YOU NEED TO LET ME GO. I'M--

WHO ARE YOU...

...AND *HOW LONG* HAVE YOU BEEN IN POSSESSION OF THE *SANDPIPER*?

WHAT? LOOK...NONE OF THAT ***MATTERS.*** YOU-- YOU HAVE NO AUTHORITY OVER ME. YOU NEED TO LET ME GO.

DID YOU ***KILL*** THEM? THE CREW OF THE *SANDPIPER*?

WHAT? NO. I-- ***NO.***

WE LOST CONTACT WITH THEM IN 2041, WHEN THEY WERE STATIONED ON DAMARA.

WE RECEIVED A DISTRESS SIGNAL, THEN ***NOTHING.*** BY THE TIME A RESCUE CREW ARRIVED, THE SHIP WAS GONE. ONLY CORPSES REMAINED.

AND NOW, FIFTEEN YEARS LATER, WE FIND THE *SANDPIPER* IN ***YOUR*** POSSESSION.

I WANT TO KNOW HOW THAT CAME TO BE.

YOU...
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

YOU STOLE A HOVERBIKE FROM OUR SHIPYARD.

ALL ASTAR VEHICLES ARE EQUIPPED WITH *TRACKING DEVICES.*

LUCKY FOR YOU TOO. OTHERWISE, THAT *THING* WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU.

HELL, ***WE*** ALMOST KILLED ***YOU.*** WAY YOU WERE DRESSED, THOUGHT YOU WERE ONE OF THEM.

TRACKER. SO STUPID...

WE'VE GOT PEOPLE SCOURING THE *SANDPIPER* LOGS.

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE FIND OUT WHAT YOU DID TO THE CREW.

AND I'M SURE THAT THERE WILL BE MORE QUESTIONS AT THAT TIME.

BUT SEEING AS YOU'RE AWAKE AND FEELING BETTER...

...TAKE HER TO CELL C-8.

YES, SIR, CAPTAIN FERRIER.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.

JUST INCREDIBLE.

SANDPIPER, SHOW ME SHIP LOGS FROM DECEMBER 20, 2041.

AUTHORIZATION CODE REQUIRED.

SENIOR SCIENCE OFFICER PAOLO SILVA. CLEARANCE LEVEL 7. CODE 902989.

AUTHORIZATION CODE NOT RECOGNIZED.

OF COURSE.

NO WONDER WE HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO TRACK THIS SHIP.

SHE'D TAKEN IT COMPLETELY OFFLINE.

SANDPIPER, INITIATE ONLINE ASTAR SYSTEM BIOS UPDATE, VERSION 6.245B.

AUTHORIZATION CODE REQUIRED.

=SIGH=

OVERRIDE AUTHORIZATION CODE. MASTER CONTROL CODE 778233.

ASTARNET LINKING....

LINKING....

AUTHORIZATION CODE OVERRIDE SUCCESSFUL.

INITIATING BIOS UPDATE TO ASTAR VERSION 6.245B.

EASY-PEASY.

ALL RIGHT. NOW LET'S SEE WHAT *SECRETS* YOU'RE HIDING FROM US.

BERWICK, HUGO RABAL

BERWICK, THETA NEDRA

OH...

THIS IS PAOLO SILVA TO CAPTAIN FERRIER.

FERRIER HERE. GO AHEAD.

I'VE GOT INFO ON OUR PRISONER THAT YOU'RE GOING TO WANT TO SEE.

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US?

YOU'RE THETA NEDRA BERWICK. DAUGHTER OF FRANCESCA AND HUGO BERWICK, THE *SANDPIPER'S* BOTANIST AND--

I *KNOW* WHO MY PARENTS WERE.

OUR SCIENTIST FOUND VIDEO LOGS OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM AND THE REST OF THE CREW OF THE *SANDPIPER*. I'M *SORRY.*

GOOD. *SO GLAD* TO HEAR IT.

I'M FREE TO GO, THEN?

HOW DID YOU DO IT?

THE *SANDPIPER* WAS ONLY INTENDED FOR A SINGLE RETURN-TRIP MISSION.

BUT FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, YOU'VE TAKEN HER HALFWAY ACROSS THE GALAXY.

IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE CHATTING, THAT'S *FINE.*

PLENTY OF TIME TO FILL US IN ON THE TRIP BACK TO EARTH.

EARTH?!

WAIT... NO.

I DON'T *CONSENT* TO THIS. YOU KNOW I'M INNOCENT! YOU JUST SAID AS MUCH! YOU *HAVE* TO SET ME FREE!

THE *SANDPIPER* HAS BEEN MY HOME FOR MY ENTIRE LIFE!

YOU *CAN'T* TAKE HER FROM ME!

PLEASE. JUST... MY WHOLE LIFE IS OUT HERE.

YOU CAN'T DO THIS.

I'M SORRY.

IT'S NOT FOR *ME* TO DECIDE.

THE SPACE EXPLORATORY MARKET IS ***VERY*** CROWDED. EVERYONE'S RACING TO FIND THE NEXT HABITABLE PLANET, SEARCHING FOR MINERALS AND MINING OPPORTUNITIES.

AND ***RIGHT NOW,*** ASTAR COULD USE EVERY ADVANTAGE, EVERY LAST SHRED OF RESEARCH, TO KEEP THEMSELVES FROM BEING SWALLOWED UP BY LARGER, MORE PREDATORY CORPORATIONS WHO'RE CONSTANTLY NIPPING AT OUR HEELS.

THEY ***NEED*** THE RECORDS AND SAMPLES COLLECTED BY THE *SANDPIPER.*

TAKE THE RECORDS. EVERYTHING MY PARENTS AND THE REST OF THE CREW FOUND. IT'S ***YOURS.*** I DON'T CARE.

BUT I ***NEED*** THE SHIP. I HAVE MY OWN RESEARCH ON BOARD, AND THAT BELONGS TO ***ME,*** NOT ASTAR OR ANYONE ELSE.

ASTAR OWNS ***EVERYTHING*** ABOARD THAT SHIP.

ANY RESEARCH CONDUCTED USING ASTAR EQUIPMENT ***BELONGS*** TO ASTAR.

IT'S PART OF THE CONTRACT THAT YOUR PARENTS SIGNED BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.

THAT RESEARCH NOW INCLUDES ***YOU.***

YOUR INSIGHT INTO WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CREW AND HOW YOU'VE ***SURVIVED*** THESE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS...

IN EXCHANGE FOR THAT KNOWLEDGE, ASTAR AGREES NOT TO PURSUE CHARGES AGAINST YOU FOR STEALING COMPANY PROPERTY.

NO!

THWUMP

YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS.

YOU CAN'T...

CUP
CHEEZ
TOAS
MOO
BOX
NOM-NOM
NOODLE
NOM-NOM
NOODLE
M-NOM
ODLE

NO ONE IS TO SEE THE PRISONER.

I'M BRINGING HER FOOD. I NEED TO ASK HER SOME QUESTIONS IN REGARD TO MY INVESTIGATION INTO THE *SANDPIPER*.

SORRY, ORDERS ARE--

I OUTRANK YOU, SOLDIER.

STEP ASIDE AND OPEN THE DOOR.

THANK YOU.

IF I HAVE ANY ISSUES, I'LL CALL FOR YOU.

THETA? I'M PAOLO SILVA. I'M THE CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICER OF THE *TURNSTONE*.

THE *SANDPIPER* LOGS SHOW THAT YOUR FOOD SUPPLIES WERE IN PRETTY DIRE SHAPE BEFORE WE FOUND YOU.

THOUGHT MAYBE YOU COULD USE A GOOD MEAL.

NOM-NOM NOODLE

IF IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL ANY BETTER, I CAN TAKE A BITE... PROVE IT'S NOT DRUGGED.

I SAW YOUR TROPHY WALL.

DID YOU REALLY KILL ALL THOSE PREDATORS?

YOU...YOU KNOW WHAT THEY ARE?

YES. IT'S...IT'S INCREDIBLE. I'VE NEVER SEEN SO MANY ARTIFACTS FROM THEM IN ONE PLACE.

YOU'VE DEALT WITH THEM BEFORE?

NOT DIRECTLY, ***NO.***

THEY'RE SORT OF A...I DON'T KNOW. NOT A HOBBY, BUT SOMETHING I'VE STUDIED. A ***FASCINATION.***

NOT MUCH IS KNOWN ABOUT THEM, THOUGH THERE ARE FILES THAT DETAIL ENCOUNTERS WITH THEM GOING BACK AS FAR AS THE 1700s.

BUT THIS IS THE ***CLOSEST*** I'VE EVER BEEN TO ONE.

IF YOU'VE READ ABOUT THEM, THEN YOU KNOW HOW ***DANGEROUS*** THEY ARE.

MORE ARE ON THE WAY. THEY KNOW I'M HERE AND THEY WON'T STOP UNTIL I'M ***DEAD.***

WHY ARE THEY AFTER YOU?

YOU SAW MY SHIP. YOU ***KNOW*** WHY.

NONE OF THIS TRACKS WHAT I'VE STUDIED ABOUT THEM. THEY'VE ONLY SHOWN UP ON EARTH DURING INTENSE HEAT WAVES OR IN HOTTER CLIMATES.

TUSKET IS AN ICE PLANET.

NOM-NOM

YEAH, WELL, I GUESS THEY AREN'T GOING TO LET A BIT OF ***COLD WEATHER*** STOP THEM FROM KILLING ME.

I'VE BEEN ***HUNTING THEM,*** TRYING TO FIND THE ONE WHO KILLED MY PARENTS.

NOM-NOM NOODLE

AND NOW THEY'VE FOLLOWED ME HERE. I'VE ALREADY TAKEN DOWN TWO, PLUS THE ONE WHO...THE ONE YOUR CREW SAVED ME FROM.

MORE ARE ON THEIR WAY, I'M ***SURE OF IT.***

YOU NEED TO LET ME BACK ON MY SHIP. I NEED TO ***PREPARE.***

I CAN'T. ASTAR HAS ORDERED US TO BRING YOU--

FWAK

THETA... DON'T...

SHUT UP.

I *TRIED* ASKING. REMEMBER THAT. YOU LEFT ME *NO CHOICE.*

TELL THE GUARD TO OPEN THE DOOR.

I *CAN'T.* THEY'LL--

IF YOU DON'T, I *SWEAR* I'LL *DRIVE* THIS *FORK* INTO YOUR CAROTID ARTERY, AND YOU'LL BE *DEAD* BEFORE THEY CAN GET YOU TO THE INFIRMARY.

LET GO OF DR. SILVA.

DON'T! SHE'S GOING TO KILL ME! *PUT YOUR GUN DOWN.*

YOU HEARD HIM.

DROP THE WEAPON OR I KILL THE SCIENTIST HERE AND NOW.

DO IT!

PLEASE! JUST PUT YOUR WEAPON ON THE GROUND. NO ONE NEEDS TO GET HURT.

IT WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THERE'S ***NOWHERE*** TO RUN.

YOU WON'T MAKE IT OFF THIS--

LET'S MOVE.

FWAK

SECURITY BREACH.

PRISONER HAS ESCAPED FROM CELL C-8. SHE IS ARMED AND HAS A HOSTAGE.

17

06

ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL RESPOND IMMEDIATELY.

HE WAS RIGHT. THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN GET OUT OF HERE. THE SHIP IS TOO BIG.

LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT...

...YOU JUST GET ME BACK TO THE *SANDPIPER.*

BUT I SWEAR TO GOD, YOU TRY ANYTHING ON THE WAY...

...AND I'LL BLAST A HOLE THROUGH THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD.

FUNNY...

...I WAS ABOUT TO SAY *THE SAME THING.*

ASTAR WANTS YOU *ALIVE.*

BUT, IF I HAVE TO, I WILL GUN YOU DOWN WHERE YOU STAND TO *PROTECT MY CREW.*

CAPTAIN FERRIER, PLEASE COME IN.

NOT RIGHT NOW, SOLDIER. I AM DEALING WITH AN--

YOU JUST CUT OUT, SOLDIER.

WE HAVE A CODE-- KRRST--

WE'VE GOT A BREACH!

WE NEED BACKUP IMMEDIATE--

SHRA-- KRZZT

PRIVATE? *PRIVATE?!*

I TOLD YOU THEY WOULD COME.

YOU DIDN'T LISTEN...

"...AND NOW IT'S TOO LATE."

6

TUSKET
THE TURNSTONE
ASTAR INDUSTRIES
RECON SHIP.

WE NEED HELP.

PLEASE...

...THIS THING HAS US PINNED DOWN IN THE F WING.

IT'S...IT'S A MASSACRE.

WE TRIED TO STOP IT, BUT WE--

SKRAAAAAAAW!

AAARGGH!

NO.

THIS MONSTER...IT'S NOT GOING TO STOP UNTIL EVERYONE ON THIS SHIP IS *DEAD.*

YOU, ME, YOUR CREW. EVERYONE.

THE MORE TIME WE STAND AROUND... THE MORE TIME YOU SPEND TRYING TO PUT ME BACK IN A CELL...THE MORE PEOPLE IT KILLS.

LET ME *HELP* YOU.

CAPTAIN FERRIER...WE... IF IT'S ONE OF THOSE *THINGS,* THEN WE NEED TO LISTEN TO THETA.

ON HER SHIP...SHE'S GOT TROPHIES. SHE'S FOUGHT AT LEAST TWENTY OF THEM.

TWENTY-SIX.

FINE.

BUT I WANT TO MAKE ONE THING ***VERY*** CLEAR.

THE MEN AND WOMEN ON THIS SHIP ARE ***MY*** RESPONSIBILITY. EVERY DEATH IS ***BLOOD ON MY HANDS.***

IF YOU THINK YOU CAN USE THIS AS COVER TO ESCAPE...IF THE THOUGHT OF EXPLOITING ***THEIR*** DEATHS FOR YOUR OWN MEANS EVEN CROSSES YOUR MIND...

...THEN I WILL END YOUR LIFE MYSELF. ***UNDERSTOOD?***

YES.

I'M GOING TO NEED MY WEAPONS AND ARMOR.

I'LL SEND ONE OF MY MEN TO GET THEM.

WE NEED A PLACE TO LURE THE PREDATOR--SOMEWHERE WE CAN HAVE THE ***ADVANTAGE.***

ONE PATH ***IN,*** ONE ***OUT.*** AND PLENTY OF ROOM FOR US TO ***MANEUVER.*** IF WE GET TRAPPED IN A TIGHT SPACE, IT'S ***OVER*** FOR US.

WE CAN CLOSE OFF THE CARGO BAY. THERE'S ONLY ONE ENTRANCE FROM WITHIN THE SHIP.

THAT'LL WORK.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU DID WHAT YOU DID BECAUSE YOU KNEW THAT THE PREDATOR WAS ON ITS WAY.

NO HARD FEELINGS.

PAOLO, WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS PREDICAMENT IF YOU OR YOUR CREW HAD LISTENED TO ME IN THE ***FIRST PLACE.***

ALL PERSONNEL, REPORT TO THE CARGO BAY IMMEDIATELY.

ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL, WEAPONS HOT.

THE SHIP IS UNDER ATTACK.

EVERYONE WHO CAN FIRE A WEAPON ***NEEDS*** TO BE GIVEN ONE. THE MORE FIREPOWER WE CAN BRING AGAINST THIS THING, THE BETTER CHANCE WE HAVE OF SURVIVAL.

SPREAD EVERYONE OUT ON THE UPPER LEVEL WITH A CLEAR LINE OF SIGHT ON THE ENTRANCE TO THE CARGO BAY.

ANYTHING THAT CAN BE USED FOR COVER, ***USE IT.***

I'M GOING TO DRAW HIM IN. I'M YOUR ***BAIT.***

AS SOON AS HE'S INSIDE THE DOORS, OPEN FIRE WITH EVERYTHING.

MAYBE IF WE'RE LUCKY, ***SOME*** OF US WILL WALK AWAY.

I REPEAT: ALL PERSONNEL, REPORT TO THE CARGO BAY IMMEDIATELY.

SHUNK

ALL PERSONNEL, REPORT TO THE CARGO BAY, WEAPONS HOT AND READY FOR COMBAT.

THIS IS NOT A DRILL.

THE TURNSTONE IS UNDER ATTACK.

C'MON. C'MON.

SHRAAAK SHRAAAK

TELL THEM TO *HOLD THEIR FIRE!*

LIKE HELL.

WE NEED THE PREDATOR TO FOLLOW ME ALL THE WAY IN.

OH MY GOD.

FINE. *HOLD YOUR FIRE.*

LET HER LURE THIS SON OF A BITCH IN A LITTLE FARTHER...

"...AND THEN *CUT HIM DOWN.*"

STEADY.

ALMOST THERE.

KLIK KLIK KLIK

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

WHY DID HE TURN AROUND?

WE NEED TO MOVE.

NOW! WE NEED TO GET OFF THE SHIP. GET THE CARGO DOORS OPEN!

NOW THAT IT KNOWS WE'RE IN HERE AND WHAT WE'RE PLANNING--

I'M NOT ABANDONING MY SHIP.

WE HAD A PLAN, WE NEED TO STICK TO--

WHAT...

...THE HELL IS THAT?

DEET DEET DEET

RUN! NOW!

MY SHIP. MY--

WHOOM

THEY'RE... THEY'RE *DEAD.*

THEY'RE DEAD BECAUSE OF *YOU.*

YOU SAID YOU COULD *STOP* THAT THING.

YOU SAID YOU *KNEW* WHAT YOU WERE DOING.

YOU *LED* IT TO THEM.

I... TRIED TO--

SHUT UP!

WHAP

I *TOLD* YOU WHAT I'D DO TO YOU IF YOU *SCREWED ME,* YOU *STUPID, MURDERING--*

GUUK...

SKRRRRRAAAAW!

NO. NO.
NO. NO.

NOT LIKE THIS.

PLEASE...

I'M NOT DONE.

...JUST...

I KNOW I PROMISED YOU, MOM...

PROMISED THAT I'D FIND THAT MONSTER AND STOP IT.

MOM.

DAD.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SO...

GUUUUH!

...SORRY.

FWAK

I FAILED YOU BOTH.

FSSSSSSSSST

FSSSSSSSST

NO...

IT'S... YOU...

SKRRAAAW!

IT'S HIM.

MY FATHER'S KILLER.

THE MONSTER WHO KILLED MY MOTHER IN FRONT OF ME AND LEFT ME TO LIVE WITH THE PAIN.

SHRAAAK

SKRAAAW

STAY BACK...I SWEAR I'LL--

WHRRRRR

SHRAAAK

HOLY SHIT.

HEY. OVER HERE!

IT'S ME YOU WANT.

I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEEN KILLING ALL OF YOU BASTARDS.

KILLING THEM JUST TO FIND YOU.

SHING

SHRAK

FIFTEEN YEARS.

SHRAAAK

THAT'S HOW LONG I'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR THIS MOMENT.

TRACKING YOUR KIND TO EVERY PLANET...

SKRRRAAAAW.

...TO EVERY HUNTING GROUND.

SHRAK

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF YOUR *DEAD*...

...AND *DESTROYED* LIVES.

SHIK

ALL...

...FOR...

SHUNK

...THIS...

...MOMENT!

SHUUUK

=HUFF=
=HUFF=
=HUFF=

WHAT DO WE DO *NOW?*

HUNDREDS. THOUSANDS.

MAYBE MILLIONS.

I DON'T KNOW.

BUT THEY'RE OUT THERE, AND THEY'RE STILL HUNTING.

I'M GOING TO *FIND THEM.*

THERE ARE *MORE* OF THEM OUT THERE.

AND I'M GOING TO KILL THEM.

ALL OF THEM.

THE END... FOR NOW.

#1 VARIANT BY **RYAN BROWN**

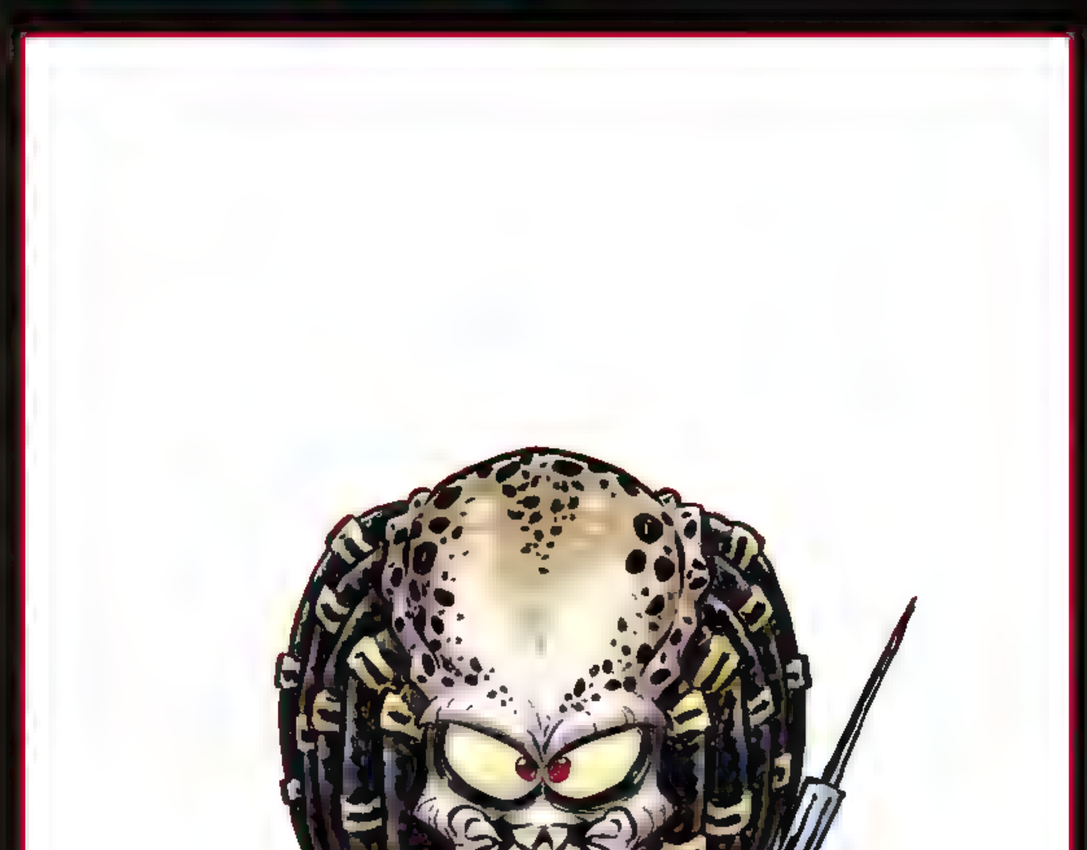
#1 VARIANT BY **DAVID FINCH & FRANK D'ARMATA**

#1 VARIANT BY **PEACH MOMOKO**

#1 VARIANT BY **RAHZZAH**

#1 VARIANT BY **RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA**

#1 VARIANT BY **PHILIP TAN & SEBASTIAN CHENG**



#1 VARIANT BY **SKOTTIE YOUNG**

#1 2ND PRINTING VARIANT BY **SALVADOR LARROCA & FRANK D'ARMATA**

#2 VARIANT BY **NATACHA BUSTOS & MATTHEW WILSON**

#2 VARIANT BY **SALVADOR LARROCA & GURU-EFX**

#3 VARIANT BY **BEN HARVEY**

#3 VARIANT BY **MARCO MASTRAZZO**

#4 VARIANT BY **SALVADOR LARROCA & FRANK D'ARMATA**

#4 VARIANT BY **STAN SAKAI & EMI FUJI**

#5 VARIANT BY **GREG LAND & FRANK D'ARMATA**

#5 VARIANT BY **GREG LAND & FRANK D'ARMATA**

#6 VARIANT BY **CARLOS MAGNO**
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PREDATOR™

HUNT. KILL. REPEAT.

In the near future, a young girl sees her family slaughtered by the deadliest and most feared hunter in the universe: a Predator. Years later, though her ship is barely holding together and food is running short, Theta won't stop stalking the spaceways until the Yautja monster who killed her family is dead — or she is. And when she crash-lands on a tundra planet, her odds of surviving are looking slim! Her only hope is to trek through the wilds to the nearest outpost. But the cold isn't the only thing she has to worry about: A Predator watches in the shadows, ready to strike! Ed Brisson (IRON FIST, GHOST RIDER) and Kev Walker (DR. STRANGE, DOCTOR APHRA) forge a violent, heartbreaking and unforgettable new chapter in the PREDATOR saga not to be missed!

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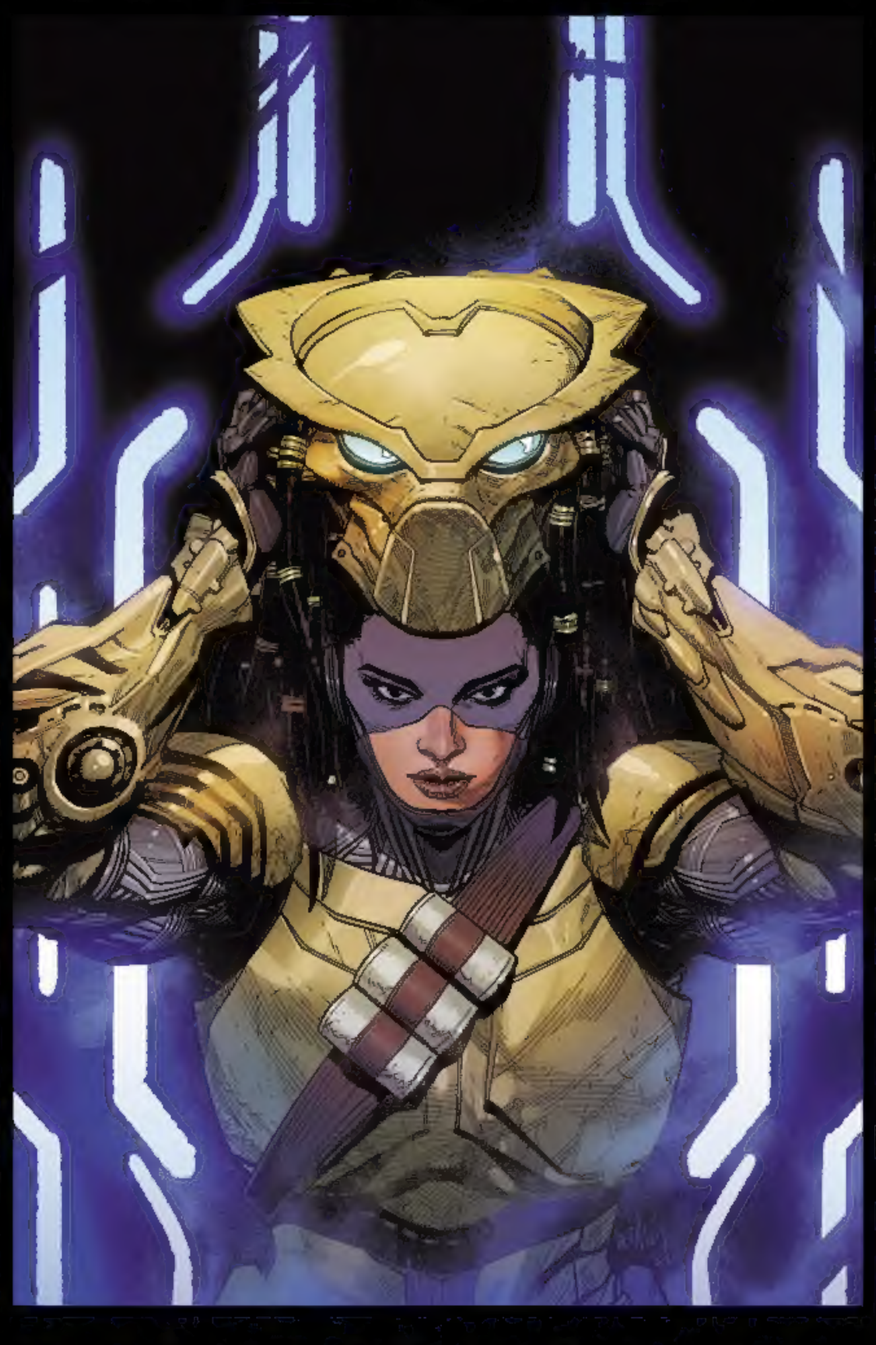

"Marks the hideous hunter's debut at Marvel with a smart twist on the Predator lore and some disturbingly well-crafted art." – BUT WHY THO?

"A fine addition to the Predator canon." – GRAPHIC POLICY

PARENTAL ADVISORY

MARVEL

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